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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505



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Honorable Bill Chappell-House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chappell:

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Your letter of 18 June 1981 to the Director of Central Intelligence concerning your constituent, has been forwarded to me for response.   believes that he was exposed to "Agent Orange" during April through September 1965 while he was in Vientiane, Laos.
This Agency has been in communication with both by letter and phone since his initial inquiry on 3 September 1980. Our Acting Director of Medical Services, advised by phone on 19 November 1980 that we were trying to ascertain if he had been exposed to "Agent Orange" and discussed the status of the United States Government's effort regarding "Agent Orange".
It was ascertained from the Office of Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, that "Agent Orange" was not used in Laos until December 1965, which was well after had departed Laos. He was so advised on 22 December 1980 in a letter from our Director of Personnel Policy, Planning and Management, a copy of which is enclosed for your information. On 26 June 1981, our Office of Medical Services reconfirmed with the Office of Research and Engineering that December 1965 was the date of initial use of "Agent Orange".
It should be noted that "Agent Orange" has yet to be conclusively implicated as a cause of any medical problem other than a severe skin condition under circumstances of heavy exposure. There is an unconfirmed association with "lymphoma" and soft tissue "sarcoma", which are both cancers. No case yet has been made for an association of "Agent Orange" with the medical condition reported by
I hope the above will be helpful in responding to your constituent. As requested, the correspondence enclosed with your 18 June letter is being returned.

Sincerely,

Gordon L. Thorpe Chief, Legislative Liaison

Enclosures

Distribution:

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jcw (7 July 81) LLB:

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